

1873  
[DOC. No. 19.]

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

VISITORS OF THE VIRGINIA INSTITUTION

FOR THE

EDUCATION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB AND OF THE BLIND.

SECOND AUDITOR'S OFFICE,  
29TH DECEMBER 1840.

SIR,

By direction of the president and directors of the literary fund, I have the honour herewith to lay before the house of delegates the second annual report of the visitors of the Virginia institution for the education of the deaf and dumb and of the blind.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

J. BROWN, JR.  
*Second Auditor.*

*The honourable the Speaker of the House of Delegates.*

## REPORT.

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*To the President and Directors of the Literary Fund.*

The visitors of the Virginia institution for the education of the deaf and dumb and of the blind, respectfully submit the following report of their proceedings during the past year, and of the present condition of the institution.

At the date of the first annual report, the institution confided to the care of the visitors, was just commencing its career. The necessary officers had been appointed; temporary means of accommodation for the teachers had been provided; some furniture, musical instruments and apparatus had been procured, and five pupils were enjoying the benefits of the institution; but no adequate opportunity had been afforded of ascertaining whether the results would equal the expectations of the legislature, to whose enlightened spirit of philanthropy the institution owed its existence. The idea of instructing deaf mutes and the blind in the higher branches of learning, was a novel one in *Virginia*, and, like most departures from the ordinary routine of custom, was regarded by many as unwise and visionary. The prejudices of the ignorant were excited against the objects of the school as impracticable, and even the more enlightened entertained doubts whether its effects would be ultimately beneficial to the pupils or to society. Some few, too, influenced by considerations of the most narrow and sordid character, were disposed to institute an inquiry whether a greater number of those who were in possession of all their senses, could not be instructed at the same cost; and having ascertained such to be the fact, were ready to denounce the institution as opposed to the great principle of public policy—to withdraw from it the patronage of the state; and practically disregarding the strong claims which the afflictions of our fellow-men present to our sympathy and protection, were willing to leave the unfortunate objects of the charity as outcasts from society, to wander in darkness and desolation through this life, ignorant of all social duties and enjoyments, and incapable of appreciating their obligations to their God, or the glorious hopes of a blessed immortality revealed by his holy word. Even the friends of the deaf mutes and blind were at first disposed to view the institution with suspicion and distrust. They had so long been in the habit of regarding those who were deprived of one or more of the avenues to the understanding, as incapable of receiving that instruction which is usually imparted through the medium of the sense of seeing or hearing, that they could not comprehend how human ingenuity, stimulated by an active spirit of benevolence, could supply the deficiency, by causing other senses to perform the functions of those that were lost.

These are some of the difficulties by which the institution was encompassed at its outset; but the visitors are happy to state that they have, in a great measure, surmounted them. Observation of the practical benefits of the institution has convinced the incredulous, and awakened a lively interest in its prosperity in the public mind. This happy result is mainly attributable to the ability and diligent assiduity of the teachers, who have laboured with untiring industry and energy to demonstrate, by the rapid progress of the pupils, their capacity to acquire knowledge, and their ability to turn it to useful purposes. Instead of the distrust of the efficiency of the institution, which existed a few months ago, the most anxious desire is manifested by the friends of the deaf mutes and blind to secure for them a place in the school, and the number of applications for admission is now much greater than the means of accommodation.

The condition of the two departments will be seen by reference to the reports of their respective superintendents, which are herewith submitted. It will be observed that the whole number of pupils is thirty-eight, of whom twenty-three are deaf mutes and fifteen blind.

The visitors feel great pleasure in bearing testimony, from personal observation, to the rapid advances in knowledge which have been made by the pupils, and to their uniformly correct and moral deportment. Strange as it may seem, it is nevertheless true, that their progress in their studies has been more rapid than is usual amongst scholars who possess all the ordinary senses; and as an evidence of the fact, it is sufficient to state that there are several pupils in the school who, six or eight months ago, were ignorant of the form or use of a single letter in the alphabet, and are now capable of composing and writing intelligible sentences. Presuming that it would not be unacceptable to all who may see this report, to have an opportunity of inspecting some evidences of the gradual improvement of the pupils, some autographical specimens of the unaided and uncorrected composition of the deaf mutes are appended to the report of the superintendent of that department.



In the blind department, the proficiency of the scholars is equally great. Many of the pupils have learned to read with facility, and have acquired a thorough knowledge of the primary rules of arithmetic. Much of their time has been devoted to vocal and instrumental music, and their success in this branch of their education is equally creditable to themselves and to their excellent and indefatigable teacher.

Instruction in the mechanic arts also will constitute an important part of the system of education in both schools, but from the want of the necessary means, and the proper facilities for imparting it, comparatively little has been done in that respect. In the blind department, it will be seen from the report of the principal, that a variety of small articles have been manufactured by his pupils, but for the reasons stated in that report, no regular system of mechanical operations has yet been introduced.

The edifice designed for the accommodation of the two schools has been commenced and is now considerably advanced. The basement story, in which the kitchen, offices, &c. are located, is nearly completed, and a large amount of carpenter's work has been done in the preparation of frames, timbers, &c. for the upper stories. A quantity of brick has also been made, and early in the spring the work will be recommenced and prosecuted with energy. The visitors had hoped that greater progress would have been made, but a variety of causes, over which they could exert no control, conspired to delay the operations of the workmen. These, however, have been removed, and the board look forward with confidence to the employment of a large and efficient force on the buildings, as soon as the weather will allow them to operate advantageously.

For the satisfaction of the president and directors of the literary fund, the visitors have caused a duplicate of the drawings of the buildings to be prepared and forwarded for their inspection. The visitors had the plans submitted to an experienced architect and practical carpenter before their adoption, and he assured them that the appropriation made by the general assembly would be sufficient to complete them, so far as the board have contracted for their completion.

The report of the treasurer, herewith exhibited, will exhibit the financial condition of the institution.

From an inspection of the support account, it will be perceived that the expenditures have exceeded the annual appropriation \$1964 23. This result was entirely unexpected to the visitors, and they feel that it is due to themselves, and to the public, to explain how it has happened.

One of the earliest resolutions of the board was, that they would, under no circumstances, voluntarily exceed the sum appropriated by the legislature, either for the buildings, or for the annual support of the institution. In accordance with this resolution, they adopted every means in their power to ensure the most rigid economy in every department, and they determined so to husband their resources as to render it unnecessary to apply to the legislature for further assistance.

The law creating the institution, makes an annual appropriation of \$10,000 for its support; but no provision was made for the purchase of furniture, or books and maps, musical instruments, apparatus, or outfit of any description whatever.

The law is also silent as to the period from which the annual appropriation shall commence; nor does it indicate whether the fiscal year shall terminate with the fiscal year of the commonwealth; nor does it prescribe the period when the schools shall go into operation.

The visitors assembled, by the direction of the executive, on the 6th day of May 1839, and organized themselves according to law, and for reasons mentioned in their former report, adjourned until the 2d day of July following, when they re-assembled, adopted their by-laws, appointed teachers, selected a location for the buildings, and entered into a contract for their execution.

At this meeting, the omissions in the law, above adverted to, were the subjects of consideration by the board, and some doubt being felt by the visitors as to their power to open the schools before the completion of the buildings designed for their accommodation, that question was referred to the president and directors of the literary fund, who decided in favour of the power. When this decision was made known, the visitors conceived that it necessarily involved a right to so much of the annual appropriation for the year 1839, as was necessary for the purposes of the institution. Believing, moreover, that it was perfectly competent for them to remedy the omission of the law in regard to the outfit of the establishment, by appropriating to that object a sufficient sum out of the first annuity, they proceeded to make purchases of furniture for the professors, steward and pupils, musical instruments, books, maps, and all the necessary apparatus for the school rooms, supposing they would be paid for out of the appropriation for the year ending on the 30th of September 1839, if the fiscal year should be regarded as coincident with the fiscal year of the commonwealth, or ending on the 6th of May 1840, if the fiscal year should be deemed to have commenced with the organization of the board. In either view of the case, the appropriation for the year 1840, would have been relieved from all hurthen, on account of the outfit, and could have been devoted exclusively to the ordinary expenses of the school. Having arrived at this conclusion, the visitors proceeded to open the schools, and to admit all pupils who offered, presuming that their means were adequate to their accommodation. To their great surprise, however, the president and directors of the literary fund, having better lights before them, and being, doubtless, more competent to expound the legislative will, placed a different construction on the law, the effect of which was to terminate the first fiscal year of the insti-



tution on the 30th of September 1840, instead of the 30th of September 1839, or the 6th of May 1840, and thereby to limit the available means of the institution up to that time to \$10,000. This decision, so unexpected to the board of visitors, has involved the affairs of the institution in the most serious difficulties, by throwing the whole burthen of the outfit, amounting to \$6203 75, on the appropriation for the year ending on the 30th of September 1840, leaving less than four thousand dollars to pay the salaries of the officers, and to defray all the other expenses of the institution. This sum being inadequate, the schools must have been disbanded, if some of the visitors had not pledged their individual credit to obtain from the Farmers Bank of Virginia, a loan of \$2000, in anticipation of the appropriation for the year ending 30th September 1841, to supply the immediate wants of the institution. This debt constitutes the balance reported against the institution. The visitors regret very much that such a difficulty should have occurred, because they are aware, that where all the circumstances are not understood, it may be calculated to create a prejudice against them, but they regret it still more, because it has compelled them to reject a number of applications for admission into the schools. With this exposition of the facts of the case, they refer it to the wisdom of the legislature to decide what measures should be adopted.

In closing this report, the visitors would do injustice to their own feelings if they were to withhold the expression of their warm approbation of the manner in which all the officers of the institution have discharged their respective duties during the year. Bringing with them, as they did, the most ample testimonials of zeal and ability in their several departments, and of unblemished character in all the relations of life, they have fulfilled the highest expectations of the board, and acquired a strong claim to the respectful consideration and gratitude of a benevolent community.

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At a meeting of the board of visitors of the Virginia institution for the education of the deaf and dumb and of the blind, at *Staunton*, November the 12th, 1840 :

The committee appointed to draft a report to the president and directors of the Literary fund of the condition of this institution, reported the same, which was read and adopted. And thereupon it was

*Resolved*, That the secretary of the board enclose the same to the president and directors of the Literary fund.

A copy.

Teste,

NICH'S C. KINNEY, *Secretary*.

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## REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE DEAF AND DUMB DEPARTMENT,

*To the President and Visitors of the Virginia Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb and of the Blind.*

A resolution of your board has been communicated to me, calling upon me to report to you the present condition of my department, with a list of the pupils.

We commenced giving instruction on the 1st of January 1840. Hitherto our main efforts in the school room have been aimed at imparting a knowledge of the English language, and for a considerable time to come, those efforts will continue to be so directed. A knowledge of our language is of primary importance in the moral and intellectual education of the deaf mute, and to his success in business. To him, in his uneducated state, all our books are sealed, the pleasures of social intercourse denied, the avenues to success in business closed, and above all, the word of God is an unknown tongue. To remove this grand impediment by opening to him, through the English language, a road to knowledge, to social enjoyments, and to success in his worldly affairs—especially by opening, through the Bible, the pathway to Heaven, is therefore an object worthy of our first and most strenuous endeavours. Reflecting minds, familiar with the practical difficulty of teaching, even hearing and speaking persons, to read and write the English language correctly, will know how to appreciate the arduousness of our task in undertaking to teach the same language to the deaf mute. For various reasons, our language is to foreigners peculiarly difficult of acquisition. The deaf mute approaches it as a foreigner, with all the obstacles before him incident to foreigners, and with still greater difficulties peculiar to himself. A foreigner begins to learn our language, aided by an acquaintance, with at least one other written language, but the deaf mute knows no written language whatsoever. To him the grammatical structure of words into



sentences, is a perfect enigma. He does not enjoy the immense advantage of his hearing and speaking countrymen, who become from childhood familiar with our tongue, and its thousand conventional and idiomatic expressions. He generally comes to us ignorant of even the mechanical operation of forming letters. He comes frequently at a time of life when the mind has become in a measure indurated by age against the reception of knowledge, and the formation of studious habits. When a person with all his senses unimpaired has grown to adult age, ignorant of reading and writing, we all know how difficult it is for him subsequently to acquire those accomplishments. The same difficulty is increased to a much greater degree in the case of the adult deaf mute. And yet to that age, or near it, the greater number of our pupils have arrived. Along this thorny path leading to an acquaintance with our language, it has been the past year our laborious task to lead our pupils. Of course we have advanced but a few steps. Our progress may be best measured by an examination of some specimens of original and uncorrected composition by the pupils, which are accordingly appended to this report in their own handwriting, and submitted in connection with it.

But our whole attention has, by no means, been devoted to teaching the English language, arduous and important as that object is. We have, meanwhile, taken much pains to polish and improve their own natural language of signs. This is a universal language among the deaf and dumb. Deaf mutes from all quarters of the world may meet and converse in the sign-language, as we converse in our mother tongue. But in its most natural state, the sign-language is rude, unpolished and generally uncouth. The labours of able and ingenious men have reduced it to method, elevated it to the rank of a polished language, and rendered it a graceful medium of intercourse between mind and mind. There is no conception of the intellect, or emotion of the heart, expressible in any language, which may not be also expressed in this; and it surpasses speech itself in the force and vividness with which it conveys the feelings and states of mind. It is, therefore, wise and judicious, and indeed indispensable to the success of our enterprise, to cultivate the sign-language with great care and assiduity. It is the only means in their case, at present available for conveying ideas to our pupils with clearness and precision, and it is invaluable through all their course as a vehicle of instruction. We have the past year industriously availed ourselves of it to convey into their minds a large amount of useful information, which could have been imparted in no other way. We have made known to them, by signs, many of the leading facts in the history of the world, and especially of our own country. The surface of the globe, with its diversified inhabitants and manifold productions, has been spread out before them. Their attention has been called to some of the simpler facts in astronomy, so that they no longer look upon the starry heavens with the vague wonder of the untaught savage. Through the medium of the sign-language, religion has received that careful and constant attention demanded by its own paramount importance, and so urgently called for by their profound ignorance, in their uneducated state, of all religious truth. They come to us, ignorant of a God, a Saviour, and a future existence; ignorant that they have a soul, and of the hopes full of immortality, which revelation sets before it. To impart to them a knowledge of the duties, the sanctions and the hopes of our religion, the sign-language is fully and admirably adapted. We have not neglected to avail ourselves of its aid for so high and sacred a purpose. A religious exercise forms a part of our daily employment with our pupils. The school is opened and closed each day with religious services in their own language. Each morning a verse from the Bible, in consecutive order, is written upon a large slate, and carefully explained by signs, succeeded by a prayer, also in signs. At the close of the school in the afternoon, some one of the more advanced pupils is called upon to spell upon his fingers the verse given in the morning, to explain the words and to express the sentiment taught. This double reference to the verse, occurring at no distant interval, has a happy tendency to fix both the sentiment and the language in the minds of the pupils. Besides its higher value in its *religious* aspect, this daily exercise conducted in this manner is highly useful as an exercise in *language*. With such and similar exhibitions of simple language, carefully explained, we teach them to infer the rules of grammar from a series of examples, instead of learning those rules by the mere force of memory. An exercise, occupying in the whole half an hour each day, is thus made to furnish them valuable food both for the intellect and the heart. This plan of taking the verses for the morning and evening exercise in consecutive order enables us to lead our pupils along, step by step, through many of the more important portions of the Bible, and renders the whole proceeding both more interesting and more advantageous to them. On the Sabbath, we have regular services in the morning and afternoon, for the worship of God, and at which some duty is enforced, some doctrine explained, or some biblical narrative given more at length than time admits on other days, all in their own expressive language of signs. The earnest attention which they give, and their serious deportment at prayer, shew that they are learning to value religious instruction, and to feel the solemnity, importance and privilege of religious devotion.

It gives me much pleasure to report that all their religious considerations and motives appear to be exerting their legitimate influence, by softening and purifying the manners, and by heightening the enjoyments of our pupils. The growing habit of looking beyond this world as a scene of action, is giving energy and stability to their efforts to elevate themselves in the scale of educated and intelligent beings. Their countenances, all buoyant with hope, and radiant with happiness, have been among the most frequent and pleasureable subjects of remark by the numerous and intelligent individuals who, from this and other states, have, during the past year, visited our school-rooms.



In my endeavours to promote, in every way, the intellectual, moral and religious advancement of my pupils, I have been most efficiently and constantly aided by *Mr. J. Turner*, teacher in my department, and himself deaf and dumb. During the year he has faithfully taught the lessons prescribed by me, and has, at all times, held up before the pupils the guiding and animating light of a good example.

Approaching the close of one year from the commencement of the school, I cannot conclude this report of its condition, without an expression of gratitude to the Author of all good for the success which has attended our efforts to instruct the deaf and dumb committed to our care, for the good health which has prevailed, and for the remarkably correct behaviour of all the pupils. No instance of severe or protracted illness has occurred, and so successful has been the use of mere moral means in the government of the pupils, that in no instance has a resort to corporal punishment been necessary. That the blessing of God has so manifestly attended this attempt to instruct the deaf and dumb of *Virginia*, on *Virginia* soil, will, I am sure, be gratifying to you and to all other friends and benefactors of the unfortunate throughout our state. Appended to this report, you will find a list of the pupils in my department, the time of their admission, and their respective places of residence.

In reference to the specimens of original compositions by the pupils, it is due both to the instructors and to the pupils, to state that the irregular entrance of pupils has added greatly to the labours of teaching, and has, at the same time, been a serious drawback upon the progress of the classes in their various studies.

JOS. D. TYLER,  
*Principal of the Deaf Mute Department.*

#### DEAF MUTE DEPARTMENT.

Names of Pupils.	Residence.	When admitted.
Elizabeth Baker,	Franklin, Pendleton county,	November 30, 1839,
Robert M. Foley,	Prince William county,	December 2, "
John Stover,	Mt. Sydney, Augusta county,	January 27, 1840,
Silas Long,	Martinsville, Henry county,	February 24, "
Susan W. Harwood,	Petersburg,	March 3, "
Joseph Cochran,	Fauquier county,	March 5, "
Robert Cochran,	" "	" "
Mary Jane Grills,	Montgomery county,	March 10, "
Susannah James,	Loudoun county,	March 28, "
Mary James,	" "	" "
Mary Ann Bailey,	Howardsville, Albemarle,	April 13, "
Arthur T. Bailey,	" "	" "
Itha Shopner,	Wheeling, Ohio county,	May 12, "
John Burgess,	Princeton, Mercer county,	August 31, "
Richard S. Taylor,	King William county,	September 16, "
Thomas J. Brightwell,	Prince Edward county,	September 28, "
Daniel M. Albright,	Greensborough, Guilford, N. C.	October 9, "
John L. Hipkins,	Alexandria, D. C.	October 17, "
Jane Roads,	Page county,	November 10, "
Marshall Butcher,	Weston, Lewis county,	November 17, "
Emily E. Franklin,	Kanawha county,	November 28, "
Agnes S. B. Franklin,	" "	" "
Preston Walker,	Rockbridge county,	December 10, "

#### SUMMARY.

Supported by the state,	-	-	21
" by their friends,	-	-	2
Total,			<u>23</u>

## ORIGINAL AND UNCORRECTED COMPOSITIONS BY PUPILS OF THE DEAF MUTE DEPARTMENT.

*By Miss Baker of Pendleton, 17 years old, under instruction nine months.*

STAUNTON, NOVEMBER 19TH, 1840.

MY DEAR BROTHERS,

I am happy to write this letter to you. I like Staunton. I am well. Some of the streets were bright with the candles in the town. We walked to see the fire. I think that I shall go to Frankin next summer. I hope that Harrison is a good man. We think of taking a pleasant walk this evening. I knew Mr. Jones. We study and improve fast. I have heard from you. I was happy to see my friends. We study our lessons. Mr. Turner thinks that he will go to Richmond next winter. We think that we shall go to the new institution soon. I take my book and read it. I hope that you will write to me. I suppose that you study and improve fast. It snows to day. I wish you to come and see me. I wish to see my friends sometimes. Mr S. H. will give you this letter. I know him. I was happy to see him.

Your affectionate  
sister E. B.

Mr. J. B. Jr.  
Mr. J. B.

## WHEN

When we are thirsty, we drink the water  
The birds go to the south when it is autumn  
The birds return from the south when it is spring  
When we are hungry, we eat some cakes  
I stay when it rains

*By Robert M. Foley of Prince William, 25 years old, under instruction nine months.*

Here is a picture of a horse kicking a little girl  
Here is a picture of a cow goring a little boy  
Here is a picture of a woman milking the cow  
Here is a picture of a cat biting a little rat  
Here is a lion biting a large bear  
Here is a picture of a boy throwing a stone and bird on the tree  
Here is a picture of a boy driveing a white cow

*By John Stover of Augusta, 17 years old, under instruction eight months.*

## ABOUT FARMING.

A man plows the farm. He harrows it. He sows seed to the farm. He harrows it. Wheat grows it. He reaps it with a sickle. He threshs wheat. He takes flour.

J. S.  
Augusta County.

A horse jumps over the fence and drinks the water  
A cat jumps upon the table and eats meat  
A boy stands between a stool and a chair  
A cat lies on the hearth near the fire  
I think of buying new boots this evening  
A dog runs through the green grass.



*By Joseph Cochran of Fauquier, 28 years old, under instruction seven months.*

#### STORY OF GENERAL WASHINGTON.

When Washington was young, his father gave a hatchet to him. He was pleaset with it. He went to the garden with it. He saw a young cherry-tree and cut it down. He did not care about it. Then he went out of the garden. His father came into the garden. He finded the tree cut it down. He was sorry for it. He asked his servant who he had cut it down. But they did not know it. Young Washington heard it and ran to his father—He confessed had cut the tree his father wondered at him and kissed him.

*By Robert Cochran, brother of preceding, 26 years old, also under instruction seven months.*

#### THE STORY OF ABRAHAM.

God commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Accordingly Abraham went to a hill with Isaac. When they were upon the hill, they made an altar. He put Isaac on an altar. He took a knife to killed Isaac. He was about to sacrifice Isaac, when an angel forbade him. He saw a ram the ram was caught a thicket by its horns. He took a ram on the altar and dressed it. He liad a ram upon the altar and offered it up

A man wished some peaches, so goes in the garden. He saw a tree full of peaches. He shaked a tree fell from the tree on the ground. He fill basket Then he took it. He came home

*By Mary Jane Grills of Montgomery, 17 years old, under instruction six and a half months.*

STAUNTON, DECEMBER 2ND, 1840.

MY DEAR FATHER

I hope that you are happy to write to me I am well I hope that you are well. We went to the institution here. I wish you would to write letter to me. Mr. Turner teaches to me—I happy to learn. It is pleasant. I wish you to come and see me. Mr. Tyler is well. Mr. T. teaches to pupils—twenty-two pupils are well. Mr. Tyler and Mr. Cook walk to Staunton often.

*By Susannah James of Loudoun, 34 years old, under instruction six months. Miss James and her sister Mary James had, at home, been taught a few words by a deaf-mute brother, but both were utterly unable to form even the simplest sentences.*

STAUNTON, NOVEMBER 30, 1840

MY DEAR NEPHEW

I am well, I write to your I am well. I hope well my niece, I wish to see my niece, I think about cousin Mr. J. often. Mr. Tyler teaches pupils. I like to see Mr. Tyler pray to day always. I like to see Mr. Tyler teaches to pupils. I think to learn some book. I like to see my brother in Staunton. I think about friends. I hope my sisiter Eilizabeth well. I think about my sisiter Icy. I wish to see my nephew. I wish to see my niece at Point Pleasant. Your affectionate aunt

S. JAMES.

We think about Christ often  
 We think about God often  
 I think to go to my home Evergreen often  
 We wish to eat some apples  
 horses drink at the pump  
 We wish that we are pupils  
 Mr. Turner thinks to go to Boston  
 my Aaron brother makes some furntuer  
 A fat horse eats the grass  
 A lazy fat man sits in a sofa and sleep

*By Mary James of Loudoun, 30 years old, also under instruction six months.*

STAUNTON, NOVEMBER 30th, 1840.

MY DEAR SISTER

I am happy to write to you. I am well. I hope that you and my friends are well. Mr. Tyler told me that I must write to you. I like Staunton. My brother lives in town. He makes some furniture now. He comes to the institution often. I wish to see you. The pupils learn three hours in the night. I am happy to study. Messers Tyler and Turner teach us well. I like the Board of the Visitors well. Twenty two Deaf and Dumb except a young pupil cannot speak. But she was very sick. She did not hear. She can little speak. She lives here now. I pity her. Mr. J. Tyler advises us to read the bible often. Formerly I did not read the Bible. I did not understand a man preached at home. I was very sorry. My brother wished for me. I come to the Institution. He told me that I must study. But I could not study. So he came with his two sisters to here. I study, I can read some. I am very glad to read, love the bible most, I understand Mr. Tyler preaching now. I thank God. I study done, if I live near the Institution I shall come to here and see him preach frequently. I believe in God. I like Mr. Eskridge's family who are good. I remember my friends far. Give respects to my relations.

*Exercise by the same, on particular words.*

WHEN.

When it is cold, we make the fire  
 When it is very pleasant, the ladies come to Staunton  
 When it rains, he takes his cloak  
 When it snows, the ladies do not come to the town  
 Many gentlemen come from the east to Washington City when it is winter  
 The pupils come to school when it is nine o'clock  
 The ladies walk up the hill when it is pleasant  
 They come to Richmond when it is winter  
 A mother forbides her little girl to play when it is cold

How.

She knows how to ride  
 She knows how to make the cakes  
 She does not know how to make the cakes  
 She knows how to drive a gig  
 A gentleman knows how to drive a carriage  
 A black man knows how to cut a large wood  
 A boy does not know how to cut a large wood  
 He does not know how to make a worktable.

If.

A father will forgive his boy if he repent  
 He will forgive his boy if he repent  
 He does not forgive his boy if he disobey him  
 God will forgive us if we repent  
 The girls will come to the town if it is pleasant



## REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE BLIND DEPARTMENT,

*To the President and Visitors of the Virginia Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb and of the Blind.*

GENTLEMEN,

Before I comply with the resolution which directs me to report to you the present state of the department entrusted to my care, allow me to congratulate you upon the success which has attended your efforts to organize this school, and upon the flourishing condition in which we now find an institution, which a short year ago did not even exist.

The catalogue of names which I have the pleasure to enclose, is small, it is true, but nevertheless, very flattering, when we take into consideration the numerous difficulties which had to be overcome, and when we compare our first steps with those of other similar institutions, which now are spreading far and wide the benefits of education.

Bearing in mind the exalted object for which this institution has been founded, that of qualifying our pupils to become useful members of society, I have endeavoured to develop their moral, intellectual and physical qualities, by a systematical division of their time, and by varying their occupation, so as to counteract the tendency to *inertia*, to which the blind are naturally very much inclined, and still not to fatigue nor to disgust them with their studies, by a too long continued attention to the same subject. Our pupils rise in winter time at 6 o'clock, attend family worship at 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ , breakfast at 7 o'clock. They devote the hours from 8 to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  to reading, arithmetic, orthography and English grammar: recess from 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 11. Instrumental music from 11 to 12 for the boys; geography for the girls. Singing from 12 to 1. Dinner at 1. From 2 to 5, P. M. manual labour, during which time the girls receive private instruction on the piano forte. Recess till supper, which is at 6 o'clock. At 7 o'clock, some interesting book is read to the pupils, and after family worship at 8 o'clock, the younger pupils retire to rest.

With the exception of Mr. Jouette H. Gray, none of our pupils having received any previous instruction, we have been obliged, with the other pupils, to confine our instruction to the mere elements of education. We begin, however, to emerge from this necessary but uninteresting stage, and our instruction is advancing from the ordinary into the higher branches. Six of our pupils are so far advanced in reading, that a book has become for them the vehicle of knowledge; eight of them have become thoroughly acquainted with the principles of numeration and the four first rules of arithmetic; the same number have acquired a tolerably accurate geographical knowledge of our globe, of the *United States* and of their native state; several pupils have learnt to correspond with their friends without the aid of an amanuensis, and what I consider as more valuable still, that spirit of investigation, and that thirst for knowledge, without which teaching is but an ungrateful task, is rapidly gaining ground among our pupils.

The instruction which the pupils have received in the different branches has been careful and thorough, and it is with pleasure that I acknowledge here, that much of the improvement of our female pupils is due to the untiring industry with which *Mrs. Coleman* has devoted herself to her duties, and to the even, kind, but firm manner with which she has treated them.

Music as a science has occupied much of our time; none too much though, when we consider the vast influence which this enchanting art has over the feelings, we might say the whole nature of the blind, and the resources which it provides for them in after life. It has been ascertained beyond a doubt, that the blind can become organists in churches, and teachers of music in private families or seminaries, as well as seeing persons. Upwards of sixty blind persons, educated at the Glasgow institution, are at this moment thus earning an honest livelihood, and a comparative large number of the older pupils of the institutions at *New York*, *Boston* and *Philadelphia* have followed their example. To attain this end, superficial instruction would avail little or nothing. A thorough knowledge of the principles of notation, and of those of thorough-bass, is indispensable, and these, the principal is happy to state, have been taught our pupils by *Mr. William Graham*, our professor of music, with an industry and a skill which deserves the highest praise. The band consists at present of two first violins, two second violins, two horns, one violoncello, and one double bass; the girls generally playing a piano accompaniment to the pieces performed by the band. The choir consists of all the pupils both male and female. Some public concerts have been given during the past year, which were numerous attended by respectable and attentive audiences, and although these exhibitions have not been very productive in a pecuniary point of view, the institution has still been benefitted by them, as they were the means of bringing our pupils more directly before the public, and of shewing with what rapidity the blind can overcome some of the obstacles which to a common observer would appear insurmountable.

The last important item of instruction which I shall notice, is manual labour, to which our pupils devote from three to four hours every day. Different articles have been manufactured by the female pupils during those hours, chiefly knittings, nettings and plattings of various kinds, such as purses, ladies work bags, guard

chains, etc., which having met with ready sale, have nearly all been disposed of. The male pupils have not yet pursued this branch of their education, with the energy which its importance will command, partly for want of the necessary tools, and partly for want of room, but principally for want of a proper teacher. I am happy to be able to state, that some of these difficulties have been removed. The tools necessary for brush making, and for weaving, have arrived lately, and the building, which the board lately rented, in addition to those which we already occupied, will furnish ample accommodations to meet all the present wants and exigencies of this department.

The health of the pupils has been very good, not only few have been indisposed, and these but slightly, but the constitution of most of them seems to have gained in strength, which is due, undoubtedly, to the regular manner of living which has been adopted, and to the attention which is paid to bodily exercise.

The household department, under the superintendence of *Miss Bragg*, matron of the blind department, has been conducted entirely to my satisfaction, and I cannot commend too highly to your approbation, the order, and the cleanliness, which she has preserved throughout our house.

In conclusion, allow me to state here my sincere conviction, that the success of this institution is now beyond a doubt, and that as a school for the blind, in spite of its youth, it is already entitled to a high rank among its sister institutions.

The intelligence, and the happiness of our pupils, the reciprocal affection which prevails among them, the gratitude and the regard which they manifest towards their teachers, the proficiency which they have made in their studies, have convinced every intelligent person who has visited our school, that the well known object for which this institution was founded, would be attained, and that our pupils would become not only happy, but useful members of society.

J. C. M. MERILLAT,  
*Princ. Blind Dep.*

### LIST OF THE PUPILS

*Of the Virginia Institution for the Instruction of the Blind.*

Names.	Admitted.	Residence.
Minerva A. Wooddy,	December 18, 1839,	Richmond.
Jane E. A. Womaek,	“ “	Petersburg.
H. Jouette Gray,	January 9, 1840,	Harrisonburg, Rockingham county.
Michael Wallace,	January 25, “	Albemarle county.
Phoebe A. Looker,	February 25, “	Pendleton county.
Melinda Conyell,	“ “	Rockingham county.
Samuel Ralston,	March “	Rockingham county.
Julia A. Sipe,	March 7, “	Angusta county.
Elizabeth R. Anderson,	March 11, “	Lewisburg, Greenbrier county.
John M. Allison,	May 9, “	Wheeling.
Elizabeth A. Fitzwilson,	June 9, “	Richmond.
John L. Bramham,	September 14, “	Louisa county.
Daniel Nicoll,	September 15, “	Wheeling.
Cyrus Carson,	September 23, “	Rockbridge county.
Mary R. Irving,	October 19, “	Dinwiddie county.



Dr. DAVID W. PATTESON, *Treasurer,*

*In account with the Virginia Institution for the education of the Deaf and Dumb and of the Blind,*

Cr.

1839—May	—To cash received of the president and directors of the Literary fund, as per draft of this date,	-	-	10,000 00	
	By cash paid James Bell on account of land, as per voucher No. 1,				500 00
Sep. 7—	By cash paid Nicholas C. Kinney for expenses, &c.,	2,			500 00
26—	By cash paid Joseph T. Mitchell for rails,	3,			50 00
Oct. 9—	By cash paid Levi L. Stevenson for labour, &c.,	4,			5 00
	By cash paid Daniel Ellis, for same,	5,			7 00
16—	By cash paid Joseph T. Mitchell in full, for rails,	6,			152 50
19—	By cash paid William W. Donaghe for labour,	7,			7 58
Nov. 7—	By cash paid Allen D. Desper for hauling, &c.,	8,			8 50
Dec. 16—	By cash paid John Donakre for labour,	9,			200 00
	By cash paid Nicholas C. Kinney on order board,	10,			850 00
	By commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on \$2,280 58 cents,	-			11 40
	By balance due institution 18th January 1840,	-			7,708 02
				<u>\$ 10,000 00</u>	<u>\$ 10,000 00</u>
1840—Jan. 18—	To balance in treasurer's hands due the institution at this date,				
	per contra,	-	-	-	<u>\$ 7,708 02</u>

DAVID W. PATTESON.

*At a meeting of the Visitors of the Virginia Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb and of the Blind, at Staunton, January 24th, 1840 :*

Nicholas C. Kinney, one of the executive committee, reported the accounts of David W. Patteson, from which it appears that there is a balance in his hands of seven thousand seven hundred and eight dollars and two cents, which accounts were examined by the board, and it appearing that the disbursements are supported by proper vouchers, it is ordered that said accounts be received and recorded, and certified to the president and directors of the Literary fund, together with the vouchers in support of the same.

A copy—Teste,

NICH'S C. KINNEY, *Sec'y.*

*The Virginia Institution for the education of the Deaf, Dumb, and of the Blind,*  
*In account with ALEXANDER S. HALL, Treasurer.*

*(On account of the Building.)*

1840—Feb'y. 20—To cash paid John Donoho on acc't for digging out the foundation, per order No. 1,	-	-	-	-	DR.	750 00
March 27—To cash paid David Kiger for timber, per order No. 2,	-	-	-	-		48 50
29—To cash paid William Donoho in advance, on account stone, brick and carpenter's work, per order No. 3,	-	-	-	-		1,000 00
June 30—To cash paid William W. Donaghe for plank, per order No. 4,	-	-	-	-		78 99
July 31—To cash paid Thomas R. Blackburn, for services as agent, per order No. 5,	-	-	-	-		50 00
Sept. 7—To cash paid " " 1 month's salary, per order No. 6,	-	-	-	-		20 83
7—To cash paid " " preliminary expenses to laying the corner stone, per order No. 7,	-	-	-	-		13 25
14—To cash paid Shafer & Vance for timber, per order No. 8,	-	-	-	-		48 50
14—To cash paid Samuel Hunter for timber, per order No. 9,	-	-	-	-		141 16
14—To cash paid Jacob Stanbus for plank, per order No. 10,	-	-	-	-		24 86
						<u>2,176 09</u>
Commission at 1 per cent.	-	-	-	-		21 76
						<u>\$ 2,197 85</u>
					CR.	
1840—Jan. 29—By cash of Nich's C. Kinney, being the sum received by him of the late treasurer,	-	-	-	-		850 00
June 30—By cash of William W. Donaghe (one of the surties of D. W. Patteson, late treasurer,)	-	-	-	-		500 00
30—By cash of Nich's C. Kinney, being balance of \$ 500 remaining in his hands, advanced for the purpose of defraying expenses in visiting the northern institutions, procuring plans, teachers &c.	-	-	-	-		236 37
July 31—By cash of David W. Patteson, on account balance in his hands as treasurer,	-	-	-	-		500 00
						<u>2,086 37</u>
Balance due the treasurer,						111 48
						<u>\$ 2,197 85</u>

It appears, from the above account, that there is a balance due your treasurer on the 30th September last of one hundred and eleven dollars and forty-eight cents, which he has advanced over and above the sum which has come to his hands on the building fund up to that time.

On reference to the account of the former treasurer, it will appear that there was a balance in his hands on the 18th January 1840, of \$7,708 02, which has been reduced by the payment of \$500 by William W. Donaghe, and \$500 by the late treasurer, and credited the institution in the annexed account, at the dates they were respectively paid.

A further sum of \$1500 has been paid on account of said balance since the 30th of September last, and will appear in the next annual settlement. All of which is respectfully submitted.

ALEXANDER S. HALL, *Treasurer.*

At a meeting of the visitors of the Virginia institution for the education of the deaf and dumb and of the blind, at Staunton, November 12th, 1840:

The treasurer reported an account of his receipts and disbursements on the building account, from the 24th day of January 1840, (the date of his appointment) to the 30th September 1840, and the board, upon comparing it with the vouchers, find the same correct, and that there is a balance due the treasurer on the 30th day of September last of one hundred and eleven dollars forty-eight cents, which is ordered to be certified to the president and directors of the literary fund.

A copy—Teste,

NICH'S C. KINNEY, *Secretary.*



DR. *The Virginia Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb and of the Blind,*

*In account with the Treasurer.*

*(For support and out-fit from the 6th May 1839, to the 30th September 1840.)*

Out-fit for the blind and expenses proper for that department :

To cash paid for repairs and alterations of buildings, household and kitchen furniture, bedding, bedsteads and bed clothes, musical instruments, music books, school books, slates, maps, globe, &c.	-	-	-	2,330 99½
To cash paid for sustenance,	-	-	-	205 57½
fuel,	-	-	-	41 00
clothing for state pupils,	-	-	-	30 67½
do. for servants,	-	-	-	9 21
hire of servants,	-	-	-	15 50
stationary,	-	-	-	8 87½
materials for manufacture,	-	-	-	14 00
salaries,	-	-	-	675 00

3,330 83

Out-fit for deaf and dumb, and expenses proper for that department :

To cash paid for household and kitchen furniture, alterations and repairs of buildings, beds, bedding and bedsteads, school books, slates, fixtures, &c.	-	-	-	2,825 71¾
To cash paid for sustenance,	-	-	-	532 74¾
fuel,	-	-	-	110 72½
clothing for pupils,	-	-	-	35 08½
do. for servants,	-	-	-	26 81½
hire of servants,	-	-	-	103 22½
stationary,	-	-	-	4 85
salaries,	-	-	-	1,216 66
two years rent in advance,	-	-	-	559 59

5,415 41

Charges in common for steward's department, and in part distributed before it was known that separate accounts would be required :

To cash paid for out-fit, consisting of household furniture, bedding, materials for repairs, &c.	-	-	-	1,047 04
To cash paid for sustenance, including provisions for horse and milk cattle,	-	-	-	1,372 94
To cash for fuel,	-	-	-	272 25

2,692 23

Property chargeable as common :

To cash paid for stationary for secretary,	-	-	-	2 75
To cash, travelling expenses of visitors to and from the institution,	-	-	-	96 50
To cash, salaries of secretary, steward and matron,	-	-	-	287 50
To cash, Mrs. Allison for expenses of bringing two pupils from Wheeling, one to each department,	-	-	-	15 00
To cash, postage,	-	-	-	52 25
To cash, discount on note in bank,	-	-	-	10 67
To cash, physician's bill,	-	-	-	78 25
To cash, allowance made to the treasurer,	-	-	-	84 94

627 86

\$ 12,066 33

## CR.

1840—Jan'y	24—By this sum transferred from account of executive committee,	4,000 00
	29—By draft of president and directors of literary fund on F. Bank of Va.	4,000 00
March	29—By do. do. - -	2,000 00
Sept.	2—By cash of Jouet Gray, blind pupil, for five months board, tuition, &c.	60 00
July	9—By cash, a donation to the institution, - -	4 00
Sept.	30—By ditto for surplus articles sold by steward, - -	8 60
	30—By ditto for hire of servants, (when not required by the steward,) -	29 50
		<hr/>
		10,102 10
Balance due the treasurer, - -		1,964 23
		<hr/>
		<u>\$ 12,066 33</u>

## RECAPITULATION.

Outfit,	-	-	-	6,203	75½
Sustenance,	-	-	-	2,111	26½
Fuel,	-	-	-	423	97½
Clothing for pupils,	-	-	-	65	75¾
Clothing for servants,	-	-	-	36	02½
Hire of servants,	-	-	-	118	72½
Stationary,	-	-	-	16	47½
Salaries,	-	-	-	2,179	16
Rent,	-	-	-	559	59
Travelling expenses,	-	-	-	111	50
Postage,	-	-	-	52	25
Discount,	-	-	-	10	67
Physician's bill,	-	-	-	78	25
Materials for manufacture,	-	-	-	14	00
Allowance made to treasurer,	-	-	-	84	94
				<hr/>	
				\$ 12,066	33

E. E.

ALEXANDER S. HALL, *Treas'r.*

*At a meeting of the Visitors of the Virginia Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb and of the Blind, at Staunton, November the 12th, 1840 :*

The treasurer reported an account of his receipts and disbursements, on support account, from the 6th of May 1839, to the 30th September 1840 ; and the board, upon comparing it with the vouchers, find the same correct, and that there is a balance due the treasurer on the 30th day of September 1840, of \$1964 23, which is ordered to be certified to the president and directors of the literary fund.

A copy—Teste,

NICH S. C. KINNEY, *Sec'y.*



REPORT  
OF THE  
VISITORS OF THE VIRGINIA INSTITUTE  
FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE  
DEAF AND DUMB AND OF THE BLIND.

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SECOND AUDITOR'S OFFICE,  
26th FEBRUARY 1841.

SIR,

By direction of the president and directors of the Literary fund, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a special report from the visitors of the Virginia institution for the education of the deaf and dumb and of the blind, respecting the embarrassed condition of the finances of that institution, together with a copy of the proceedings of the president and directors of the Literary fund, inviting the attention of the general assembly to the subject.

With great respect,

Your most obd't serv't,

W. H. BROWN,  
*Acting Second Auditor.*

*The honourable the Speaker of the House of Delegates.*

*At a meeting of the President and Directors of the Literary Fund, 24th February 1841 :*

A special report from the visitors of the Virginia institution for the education of the deaf and dumb and of the blind, dated 15th instant, in relation to the embarrassed condition of their finances, arising from causes fully set forth in said report, and requesting the president and directors of the Literary fund to grant relief in the premises, if it is in their power to do so, and if not, that the subject may be brought to the notice of the legislature, was laid before the board, read, and duly considered : Whereupon,

1. *Resolved, as the opinion of this board,* That it is essential to the maintenance and prosperity of the said institution that the relief asked for by the visitors thereof should be extended to it, but that this board does not possess the power to grant the same.

2. *Resolved,* That the second auditor transmit a copy of the report abovementioned, and of these proceedings, to the general assembly, and invite their attention to the subject.

A true copy from the minutes.

W. H. BROWN,  
*Acting Second Auditor.*



## REPORT.

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*To the President and Directors of the Literary Fund.*

The visitors of the Virginia institution for the education of the deaf and dumb and of the blind, feel constrained, by a sense of duty to themselves and to the institution under their charge, to lay before you a special report of the embarrassed condition of its finances, that the proper measures may be adopted to afford the necessary relief. The visitors have already explained in their last annual report, the reasons which led them unanimously to the conclusion that the annuity of the institution commenced with its organization under the authority of the president and directors of the Literary fund, and it is therefore unnecessary to repeat them here. To prevent all misapprehension, however, they will remark, that their explanation was given in no spirit of complaint, nor with any disposition to question the correctness of the decision of the president and directors of the Literary fund, but merely for the purpose of shewing that the visitors did not act inconsiderately and wantonly, but from the sincere and deliberate conviction of their minds. Their error was an error of judgment and not of intention, and what they now seek is relief to the institution from the consequences of their misapprehension of the extent of their authority.

It will be seen from the last annual report of the visitors, that the amount expended at that date for furniture, musical instruments, books, apparatus, and other articles properly belonging to the outfit of the institution, was about \$6250. A large portion of this amount was expended prior to the 30th September 1839, in making the necessary preparations for opening the schools in the month of November 1839, with the expectation that it would be paid out of the annuity which it was supposed would accrue before the 30th September 1839, and thus leave the annuity for the year ending 30th September 1840 free from all incumbrance. But the president and directors of the Literary fund having decided that no part of the annuity of the institution accrued before the 30th of September 1839, the whole of this expenditure was thrown upon the annuity of the year ending 30th September 1840, and a balance of \$3750 only was left to pay all the salaries of the professors and teachers and steward, the rent of the houses, hire of servants, and all the expenses of supporting thirty-eight pupils. The amount was palpably insufficient, and the schools must necessarily have been suspended, but for the interposition of the resident visitors, who pledged their private credit in the Farmers Bank of Virginia to raise a sum sufficient to pay the most pressing demands. By this expedient, and by postponing some of the debts of the institution until after the commencement of another fiscal year, the schools were continued in operation.

The liquidation of the bank debt and the deferred liabilities, above referred to, out of the annuity of the current year, have left so small a balance on hand as to preclude all hope of its being sufficient to support the schools until the 30th of September next. After deducting all the actual liabilities, the net balance of the annuity of the current year is now, as appears by the annexed account, \$1169 81. This sum is obviously insufficient to pay the salaries of the officers, much less to meet all the current expenses of the institution until the close of the present fiscal year. Something must, therefore, be done for the relief of the institution, or the schools must be closed, and the very able and efficient principals and teachers, who have relinquished lucrative situations in northern schools upon the invitation of the visitors of the Virginia institution, must be discharged, with little prospect of being able, at any future day, to induce them to renew their connection with our schools, and still less of supplying their places. The visitors would willingly again step forward and support the institution for the residue of the year out of their own resources, if they could thereby afford any permanent relief to it. But as the effect of such a course would be only to shift the burthen from the annuity of the present to that of the next year, they have concluded to bring the question at once before the president and directors of the Literary fund, that they may extend the relief, if it be within their power to do so, and if not, that the subject may be brought to the attention of the legislature.

An appropriation of \$6250, the amount expended for permanent outfit of the establishment, and which cannot be properly regarded as constituting a part of the ordinary current expenses of the institution, will relieve it from all embarrassment and enable it to fulfil the noble designs of its humane and munificent founders.

All which is respectfully submitted.

*At a meeting of the Board of Visitors of the Virginia Institution for the education of the Deaf and Dumb and of the Blind, February 15, 1841 :*

The committee appointed to draft a report to the president and directors of the Literary fund, as to the finances of the institution, presented the same to the board, which was read and adopted, and thereupon

*It is Resolved*, That the secretary of this board enclose a copy thereof to the president and directors of the Literary fund.

A copy—Teste,

NICHOLAS C. KINNEY, *Sec'y.*

Balance annuity for the year 1841,	-	-	3,500 00
Amount liabilities ascertained up to 1st February 1841,	-	-	2,330 19
			<hr/>
Balance after discharging liabilities,	-	-	<u>\$ 1,169 81</u>

A true copy from the original.

W. H. BROWN,  
*Acting Second Auditor.*